



They devoted themselves to the teaching
of the apostles and to the communal life,
to the breaking of the bread
and to the prayers.

ACTS 2:42

Issue 23 | June 2024

Peace of Christ



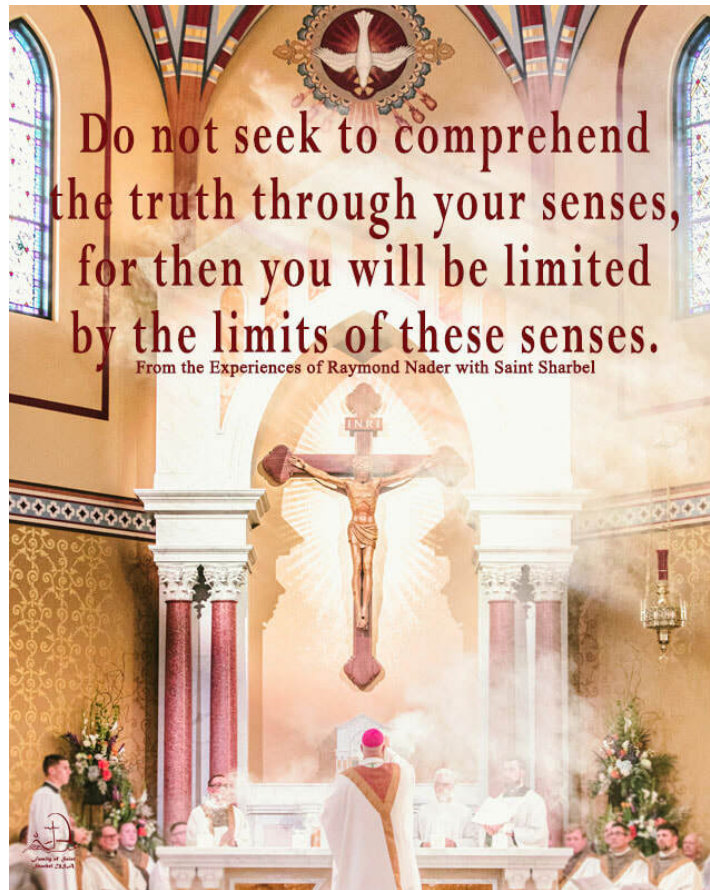
*Family of Saint
Sharbel USA*

Blessings to You!

The Family of Saint Sharbel USA happily presents its 23rd Newsletter. We are thankful and glad to be walking with you, and we ask for your prayers as our community of faith continues to grow! **Please spread the word; we would love to have you all join us.**

Contemplation Corner

A Reflection by Fr. Ted Trinko, Chaplain of the National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/spiritual-designs/do-not-seek-to-comprehend-the-truth-through-your-senses>

America Discovering Saint Sharbel

"Until I was 25 years old, I had no idea who St. Sharbel was. To the best of my recollection, I had never seen a book, statue, or holy card of his. Never was he mentioned in homilies, retreats, or spiritual conversations. None of my friends chose him as their confirmation sponsor, and I knew no one who had him as their baptismal name. This was the case despite growing up in a practicing Catholic household and attending a religious seminary for 8 years.

That all changed with a trip to the Holy Land shortly after my ordination. While

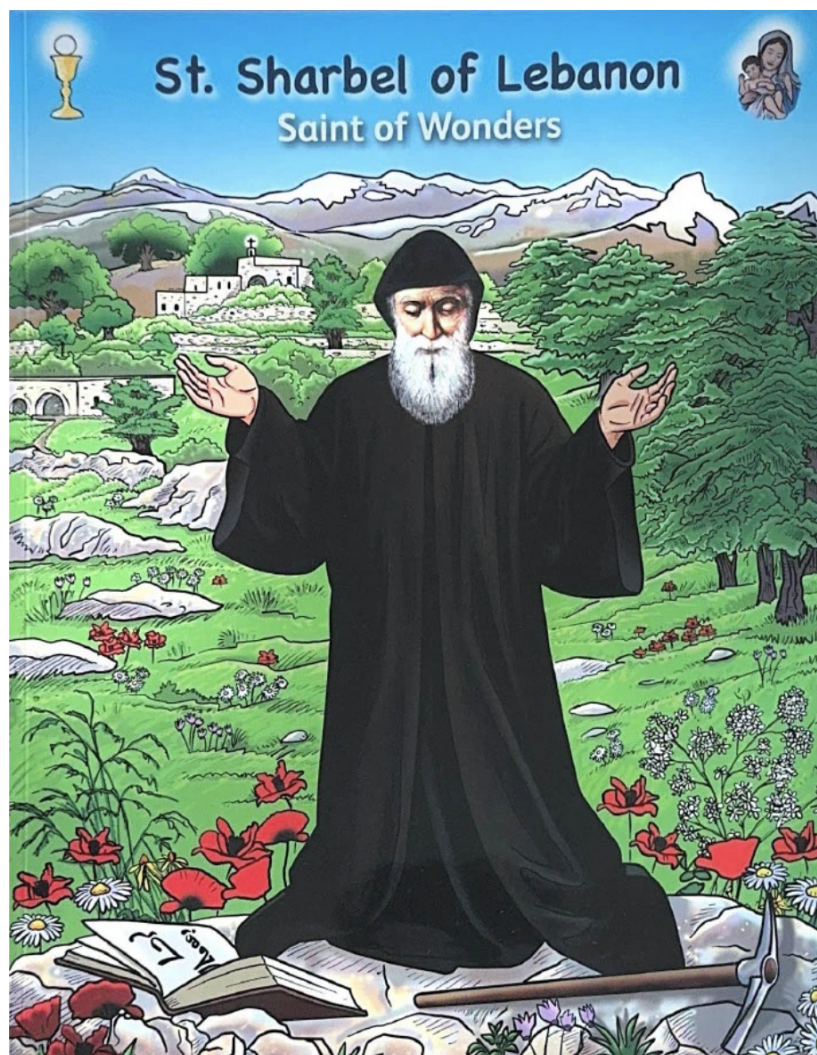
riding in a taxi with a Druze driver, I noticed he had a holy card of a saint with a golden halo behind his hooded head. Since many Catholics put rosaries or icons in their vehicles, I asked if he too was Catholic. "No," he replied, "I put him here for protection. This is St. Sharbel. He works many miracles." This was the first time I heard St. Sharbel's name. I started to wonder what kind of saint this must be if even non-believers depended on his intercession..."

[Click here](#) to read Fr. Ted's full reflection.

[Click here](#) to view more of our spiritual designs.

What's Ahead

NEW! St. Sharbel Illustrated Book - Now Available!



St. Sharbel of Lebanon: Saint of Wonders is one of the Family of Saint Sharbel's latest projects! Available in two languages, this illustrated book recounts the life of Saint Sharbel in context, beginning with a brief history of the Maronite Church and the Lebanese Maronite Order and ending with the legacy left behind by Christ's work in this Saint, including the formation of the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the links below to read more or purchase this book in Arabic or English!

Order Online - Arabic

Order Online - English

Saint Sharbel's Feast Day at the National Shrine Grotto

Come celebrate with us! The **National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes** (Emmitsburg, MD) and the Family of Saint Sharbel USA plan to commemorate the Feast of Saint Sharbel with a day of prayer on **Saturday, July 13th, 2024**. Please mark your calendar and see the flyer below for details!



- ❖ Adoration & Confession: 10:45 AM - 11:45 AM
- ❖ Mass: 12:00 PM (St. Mary's Glass Chapel), followed by procession with and veneration of the relic of St. Sharbel and blessing with the blessed oil of St. Sharbel.
- ❖ 1:45 PM: talk by Mr. Raymond Nader, founder and President of the Family of Saint Sharbel.

The National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes
&
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA
Invite you to celebrate
The Feast of Saint Sharbel
Saturday, July 13, 2024
Address: 16330 Grotto Road, Emmitsburg, MD 21727

More information about Mr. Nader is available at:
<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/experiences.html>
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7UatXxxzk_Y&t=508s

Grotto Website

St. Sharbel Relic to Visit Knock Shrine | Knock, Ireland

On Saturday, July 27th, a relic of Saint Sharbel is scheduled to visit the Knock Shrine in Knock, Ireland! The relic will be present during the 3PM Mass that day. Click the link below for full details!

[Read More Here](#)

Saint Sharbel Events in the USA

Explore the links below to find an event near you.

Please email or call the parish, mission, or center to verify the times listed below, especially as the feast of Saint Sharbel takes place this month!

Masses in Honor of St. Sharbel:

St. Joseph Maronite Catholic Church, Phoenix, Arizona

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Mission of Stockton, California

National Shrine Grotto of Our Lady of Lourdes, Emmitsburg, Maryland

St. Sharbel Maronite Catholic Church, Clinton Township, Michigan

Our Lady Star of the East Maronite Catholic Church, Pleasantville, New Jersey

St. Joseph Roman Catholic Church, Astoria, New York

Shrine Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Brooklyn, New York

St. Sharbel Spiritual Life Center, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

St. Sharbel Mission, El Paso, Texas

St. Sharbel Mission of Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Recent News

A Delegation of the Family of Saint Sharbel Visits Poland

This spring, the founder and President of the Family of Saint Sharbel visited Poland, where the Family has recently spread, alongside Fr. Antoine Beshaalani and a group of Family administrators. Click below to learn more about their trip!



[Read More Here](#)

Saint Spotlight

The Blessed Massabki Brothers



Icon of Blessed Francis, Raphael, and Abdul-Mooti Massabki who were martyred in the 19th century.

Feast Day: July 10th

The Blessed Massabki Martyrs were three devout brothers, Francis, Raphael, and Abdul-Mooti, who chose to die rather than renounce their faith on July 10th,

1860. The brothers lived in Damascus and were raised in a wealthy yet pious Maronite Catholic family whose members were known for being generous and for spending many hours in fervent prayer. During their lifetime, unrest increased in Damascus, which was then under Ottoman rule, culminating in various attacks on Christians of all kinds. As this unrest reached a peak in July of 1860, a number of Christians sought refuge in a Franciscan monastery, including Francis, Raphael, and Abdul-Mooti. While there, armed attackers infiltrated the monastery and killed eight Franciscan monks and three laymen who worked at the monastery. After this, the armed men called out for Francis Massabki, who had been praying in the monastery's church. Since the governor had borrowed a large sum of money from Francis and remained indebted, he had instructed the armed men to save Francis, Francis' brothers, and anyone who would join them if they would renounce their faith and convert to Islam. If they would not convert, however, they would be killed. Francis and his brothers each refused to pay the price of apostasy for life on earth, and for this choice, they were murdered at the foot of the altar that day.

The Blessed Massabki brothers were beatified on October 10, 1926, but they are to be canonized next year. May they intercede for us that we too might have the faith to value Christ above our temporary lives.

Click the link below to read more!

[More on the Massabki Martyrs](#)

Reading Nook

Melto D'Moronoyo: Faith Worth the Sacrifice

by Dominic Altakchy



Photo: Statue of St. Sharbel - Annaya, Lebanon | Provided by the Family of Saint Sharbel

Faithful Christians have been martyrs (witnesses) for Christ throughout all of Church history, be it by physically dying for Jesus like the Massabki brothers or by living a radically cruciform life like Saint Sharbel. As we approach July, the month of the Precious Blood of Jesus (which He shed for us!) and the feast of the 350 Maronite Martyrs (July 31st), Dominic Altakchy's article below is a timely reflection on martyrdom in the Church!

“The fact that the Catholic Church is still standing today is testament to its divine institution.

From its very beginnings and throughout the centuries, its unity and existence have been threatened by internally driven contention and externally fuelled hostility. Yet two millennia later and against all human odds, the Church continues to subsist as Christ’s mystical body on earth.

Of course, this will come as no surprise to believers, for it was Christ himself who promised that “the gates of hades will not prevail against it” (Mt 16:18).

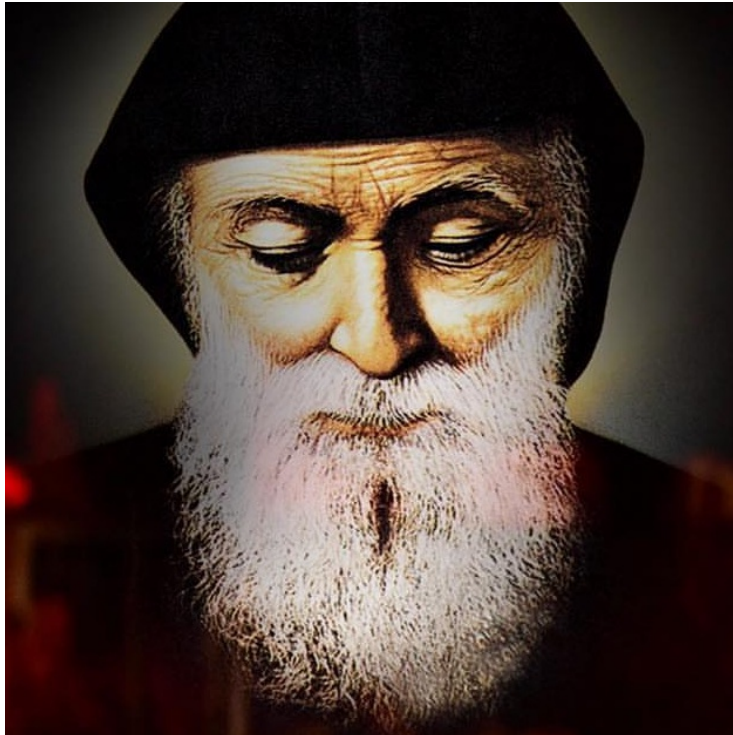
But it is also true that the Church would not be here today if it were not for the early martyrs who, by their courageous witness and defence of the faith, preserved the Apostolic Tradition in all its truth, beauty, and goodness for future

believers. For as Tertullian put it, “the blood of the martyrs is seed for the Church...”

[Read More Here](#)

Articles and More

New Testimonials



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/testimonials.html>

Periodically, we receive stories from people around the globe who have experienced the work of God through the intercession of St. Sharbel. We would like to share the most recent testimonies we've received with you below! Click on a title to read the full story; all posted testimonies have been shared with the author's permission.

[Healing Testimony for Souraya Boutros Ramia](#)

[Healing Testimony of Ibrahim Elias Al-Azwat](#)

[Healing Testimony of Fares Khoury Boutros Fares](#)

[Healing Testimony for the Child Miriam Walid Obeid](#)

You can read more personal testimonials on our Testimonials page [HERE](#).

Disclaimer: All testimonials posted on the Family of Saint Sharbel's website are based solely on person-to-person accounts. Unlike Vatican-approved miracles, the claims within these testimonies have not been subjected to extensive scientific review.

Editor's Pick: FORMED Resource



Click the image above (copied from the FORMED online streaming platform) to be directed to The Catholic Parent, a video series intended to aid parents in their vocation!

The Family of Saint Sharbel offers you a FREE subscription to FORMED, an online Catholic platform that contains thousands of resources for spiritual growth!

This Month's Highlighted FORMED Resource:

In addition to Saint movies, audiobooks, theological talks, Scripture studies, and more, FORMED has resources for parents! This month, we would like to highlight ***The Catholic Parent***, a video series meant to guide and encourage Catholic parents in their vocation as caregivers, teachers, and witnesses to Christ in their families.

Click the button link below to watch!

Watch Here

To view this resource and many others, sign up for FORMED **FOR FREE** by following these simple steps:

- (1) **Go to:** <https://formed.org/signup>
- (2) **Enter:** Family of Saint Sharbel
- (3) **Enter** your name and email address and you're in!

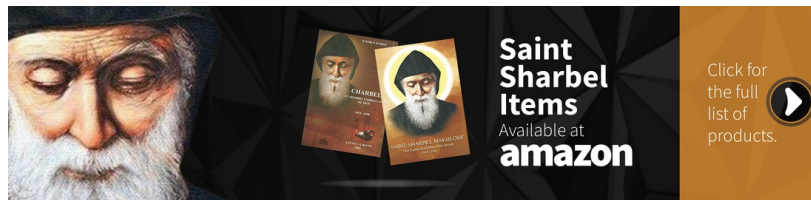
Below are the links to FORMED on social media:

Instagram: [formedcatholic](#)

Facebook: [FORMEDCatholic](#)

YouTube: [Augustine Institute](#)

Family of Saint Sharbel Shops



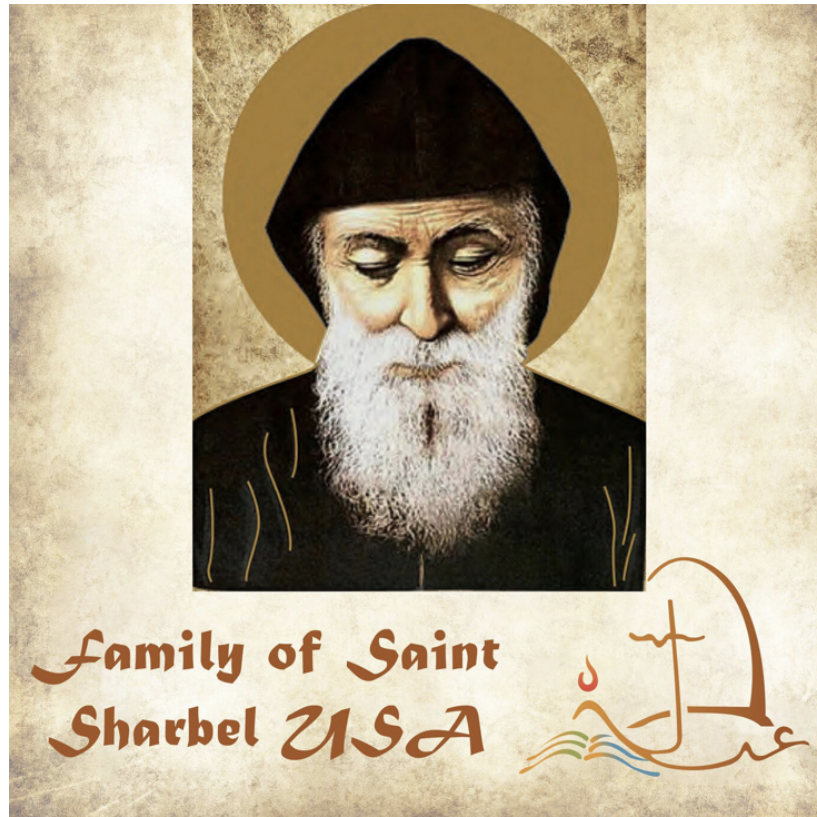
Click this image to view our Amazon shop!

The Family of Saint Sharbel is on **Amazon** and **Shopify**! On these two platforms, books, novenas, prayer cards, and sacramentals related to St. Sharbel and Catholic Spirituality are available for order, including works created by the Family of Saint Sharbel. Click the buttons below to explore!

Amazon

Shopify

Family of Saint Sharbel Podcast



<https://www.familyofsaintsharbel.org/podcast>

The Family of Saint Sharbel (FSS) Podcast is now available in English and Arabic! Episodes currently include talks on the Maronite Divine Liturgy, Syriac Spirituality, the Silence of God, and more. Listen at the link below or through your podcast app of preference, and please feel free to share!

[Listen Now](#)

Zoom Prayer Gathering - Arabic



[Click Here to Learn More!](#)

Questions or Comments?

Email communications@familyofsaintsharbel.org to let us know!

Where to Find Us

- [Website](#)
- [Shrine](#)
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- [Facebook](#)
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- [Sanctuary.of.Saint.Charbel.in.Lebanon](#)

**God Bless,
The Family of Saint Sharbel USA**



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